

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An applicator for applying one of a liquid and pasty application medium to at least one side of a moving fiber material web, said applicator comprising:

a curtain applicator unit for applying a free falling curtain of the application medium moving substantially under the force of gravity and incident on the fiber material web at a region of incidence; and

a vacuum generating device for attracting the application medium from said curtain applicator unit to the moving fiber material web, said vacuum generating device being located on the side of the moving fiber material web which faces away from said curtain applicator unit, said vacuum generating device providing a vacuum generally in said region of incidence firmly attaching the application medium to the fiber material web.

2. The applicator of claim 1, wherein said vacuum generating device is a suction box having at least one sealing element set against the moving fiber material web.

3. The applicator of claim 2, said suction box including an inlet side and an outlet side, said at least one sealing element positioned at at least one of said inlet side and said outlet side.

4. The applicator of claim 2, wherein said sealing element is a doctor element.

5. The applicator of claim 2, wherein said sealing element is a brush.

6. The applicator of claim 1, further including a roll supporting the moving fiber material web, said vacuum generating device being a suction zone within the roll.